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BARROWFORD  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,  
Surveyor,

AND

Inspector of Nuisances,

For the year ended 31st December, 1920.

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NUTTALL & CO. LIMITED.  
KINGS MILL, BURNLEY.



# To the CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS OF THE Barrowford Urban District Council.

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GISBURN ROAD,

BARROWFORD,

GENTLEMEN,

March, 1921.

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Urban District of Barrowford, during the year, 1920.

## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

*Population.* The census of 1911 showed a population of 5,527, but the present population must be at least 6,000. The district lies mainly in a valley, and the most populous part is along one bank of the river, with the consequence that the atmospheric conditions are suitable to the weaving industry. The rainfall is very considerable. The chief occupation of the inhabitants is in the weaving industry and allied trades, and the general health of the community is good; a considerable number reaching the ages of 70 and 80 years.

*SCHOOLS.* There are three elementary schools in the district, viz. :—

Barrowford Church of England School and Higher-  
ford Roman Catholic School.

Barrowford Council School.

During the month of February, 1920, it was found necessary to close the R.C. School and the Council Infants' School, on account of the epidemic of measles. The sanitary condition and water supply of these schools is satisfactory.

## FOOD.

It has not been found necessary to take any action with regard to the supplies of milk, or meat in the district.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The supervising authorities are the Lancashire County Council, and they have established and control a Child Welfare Centre in Barrowford. Commenced in the early part of 1920, a considerable amount of useful work has been done, by the Local Committee of Ladies, to render the Centre useful and educational. Tea and cakes have been provided for the mothers and children who come to the Centre, and a number of lecturers have kindly given their assistance.

There have been no deaths among infants from any infectious disease. There was one case of septicemia following a miscarriage, which was also fatal. There were two cases of ophthalmia neonatorum but no permanent injury to the eyes.

BIRTHS (*see* Tables I and II).

During the year ending 31st December, 1920, there have been 128 births registered—65 males and 63 females.

This gives an annual birth rate of 22.7 per 1,000 of the population. The average rate for 1919 was 10.9. The mean rate for ten years—1910 to 1919—was 16.1. Of the births in 1920, one male and four females were illegitimate.

DEATHS (*see* Tables I and II).

The number of deaths registered during the year was 72, giving an annual death rate of 12.7 per 1,000 of the population. The average rate for 1919 was 12.9 for 1,000 of population, while the mean rate of 10 years—1910 to 1919—was 12.8. Of the deaths, 34 were males and 38 females. Ten infants under one year died during the year.

The following table shows at what ages the deaths occurred :—

Deaths under one year.....	10	
1 year and under 5 years .....	2	
		—Under 5 years—12
5 years and under 15 years ...	2	
15 years and under 25 years ...	1	
25 years and under 45 years ...	7	
45 years and under 65 years ...	15	
65 years and over .....	35	
		—5 yrs. and over 60
Total .....	72	

Included among the deaths were Bronchitis, 7 ; Organic Heart Disease, 5 ; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1 ; Pneumonia, 5 ; Cancer, 7. (See Tables I and II).

The death rate of infants under one year per 1,000 births was 78, as compared with 80 of the previous year, and a mean rate of 94 for the 10 years 1910–1919.

There were no deaths of infants from the principal epidemic diseases.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Under the Infectious Disease Notification Act, there have been 26 cases notified. The cases were :—

Enteric Fever .....	1
Scarlet Fever .....	6
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup...	1
Pneumonia .....	6
Ophthalmia-Neonatorum .....	2
Puerperal Fever .....	1

In addition to the above there have been four cases of Tuberculosis notified.

## SANITARY CONDITIONS.

During the year there has been a good supply of water from the Nelson Corporation reservoirs.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are four Slaughter-houses which have been inspected during slaughtering. Their condition is satisfactory. The garbage is removed twice a week. During the Control of Meat, the Slaughter-houses have not been in continual use.

## DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

These are kept clean but some of the Cowsheds are short of air space.

## FACTORIES.

No defects have been found.

## WORKSHOPS.

These have been regularly inspected and their condition found satisfactory. One sanitary infringement has been found and has been remedied.

The time allowed for the emission of black smoke is ten minutes.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.—Method of Treatment :—Sedimentation ; Sprinklers ; Final Sedimentation Tank and Land Treatment of Storm-water.

DRAINAGE SYSTEM, Character of.—Earthenware Pipes.

REFUSE, Disposal of.—Ashes to tips, night soil on land. Houses newly erected are provided with portable galvanised iron ash-bins.

Waste Water Closets.....	831
Fresh Water Closets.....	176
Pail Closets .....	20
Privy Middens.....	31

## HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

There are 1,500 houses in the district, many of them exceedingly small, and a large proportion of them back to back houses. There is an estimated population of about 6,000. The birth rate indicates one birth to every twelve houses in the district.

There are 1,580 houses, of which 1,468 are workmen's dwellings.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected .....	20
Number of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation.....	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses (closing orders) .....	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses remedied without closing orders	11

## CHARACTER OF DEFECTS.

Structural dampness, etc.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED E. SELLER,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING  
1920, AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

BARROWFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

	PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.				Rate of Deaths under 1 Year to 1,000 Births
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Epidemic Death Rate	Phthisis Death Rate	
1920 .....	22.7	12.7	0.70	0.17	78
1919 .....	10.9	12.9	0.55	0.36	80
Mean of 10 years 1910-1919.....	16.1	12.8	1.11	0.76	94
Increase, or De- crease in 1920 on Previous Year	+ 11.7	- 0.2	+ 0.15	- 0.19	- 2
Ten Years' Avge...	+ 6.5	- 0.1	- 0.41	- 0.59	- 16

TABLE II.  
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1920.

BARROWFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES
All Causes .....	34	38
Civilians only.		
1. Measles .....	—	1
2. Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	1	—
3. Cancer Malignant Disease .....	3	4
4. Meningitis .....	—	1
5. Organic Heart Disease .....	3	2
6. Bronchitis .....	2	5
7. Pneumonia (all forms) .....	4	1
8. Other Respiratory Diseases .....	1	1
9. Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) .....	1	2
10. Nephritis and Brights Disease .....	2	2
11. Puerperal Fever.....	—	1
12. Congenital Debility, &c. ....	2	2
13. Violence—apart from Suicide .....	1	—
14. Suicide .....	1	—
15. Other Defined Diseases .....	13	16
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.....	5	5
Ditto. Illegitimate .....	—	1
Total Births .....	65	63
Legitimate .....	64	59
Illegitimate .....	1	4
Population for Birth and Death Rate ...	5,642	



TABLE III.

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1920.  
*(Provisional figures. Populations estimated to the middle of 1920 have been used for the purpose of this Table.)*

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Population.	ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.❖			
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 year	Deaths in Public Institutions	Certified Causes	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Death	
England & Wales	25.4	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.19	0.04	0.11	0.15	0.28	0.48	8.3	80	24.3	92.2	6.6	1.2	
96 Great Towns including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000)	26.2	12.5	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.04	0.14	0.16	0.31	0.43	10.4	85	31.3	92.2	7.1	0.7	
148 Smaller Towns (Census Populations 20,000-50,000)	24.9	11.3	0.02	0.00	0.19	0.03	0.10	0.14	0.27	0.38	7.8	80	16.5	93.2	5.3	1.5	
London .....	26.5	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.05	0.17	0.22	0.30	0.47	9.5	75	46.8	91.2	8.6	0.2	

\* Non-civilians are included in these figures for England and Wales but not for other areas.



# REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES FOR THE YEAR 1921.

COUNCIL OFFICES,  
BARROWFORD,

*March, 1921.*

A. SELLER, Esq.,  
Medical Officer of Health,  
Barrowford.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to forward you my Annual Report, being a report on the administration and work of the Sanitary Department during the year ended 31st. December, 1920.

## NUISANCES.

Twenty-four Nuisances were detected and dealt with. These consisted chiefly of choked drains, and waste water-closets, and minor structural defects.

### HOUSING : INSPECTION OF DISTRICT REGULATIONS, 1910.

Houses Inspected .....	20
Houses in which defects were remedied without Closing Order .....	11

The nuisances and defects found in these inspections were chiefly structural, and dampness.

## NOTICES.

Four Preliminary Notices or Letters have been served. Verbal notice proved sufficient in the majority of the Nuisances.

### PREMISES OVER WHICH THE DEPARTMENT HAS CONTROL. SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The slaughter-houses were visited and found to be kept in a satisfactory condition. The Council's workmen remove garbage twice weekly during slaughtering, but the slaughter-houses have not been in continual use during the control of meat.

## BAKEHOUSES.

These were kept clean, and limewashed regularly.

## DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The clean condition of both sheds and cattle has been fairly good.

## WORKSHOPS.

The workshops were inspected and found fairly satisfactory.

One workshop was found to be unclean, but was cleansed after verbal notice.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

In connection with the cases of infectious disease notified, seven rooms have been fumigated and disinfectants supplied.

## CANAL BOATS.

No inspections of canal boats were made during the year.

## HOUSE REFUSE SCAVENGING.

Ashbins emptied .....	7939
Ashpits emptied .....	2425
Privy Pails emptied .....	149
Privy Tanks emptied .....	185

## REPRESENTING—

Loads of Ashes tipped .....	1126
Loads of Night Soil .....	130
Loads of Trade Refuse .....	57½

Yours faithfully,

F. SUTCLIFFE.